



Biosecurity, ESL focus for govt review

From the Chairman
RICHARD HALLIDAY



IT HAS been a big November for Livestock SA with plenty of issues and changes afoot as we head into 2015.

The State Government recently listed a series of economic priorities to the importance of the state. Second on that list was, 'premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world'.

We thanked Premier Jay Weatherill for the recognition - even though we came in second behind 'unlocking the full potential of resources, energy and renewable assets' - and reiterated the importance of biosecurity, outlined Livestock SA's concerns over budget constraints to PIRSA and Biosecurity SA and sought increased funding in next year's State Budget.

ESL levy increase

Concern continues over the potential impact of Emergency Services Levy increases on future commitments of primary producers to the Country Fire Service. There was considerable publicity recently about two CFS volunteers who did not fight a fire near Ceduna because of the ESL rises.

Livestock SA has gathered feedback from members on the issue. We are calling for previous remissions and concessions for primary producers to be reinstated as well as some of the ESL funding to be used for:

- > Subsidising voluntary membership and service to CFS.
- > Establishing a fund for treatment of livestock injured in fires or removal of dead livestock from fire-affected properties.

Community representation

Livestock SA has been well represented throughout the community. Board member Bill Nosworthy attended the recent West Coast Country Cabinet at Streaky Bay, member Kay Hocking gave Livestock SA's view on development of a code of practice for breeding cats and dogs (see page 2) and member David Smith represented Livestock SA at the Beach Energy South East Energy and Industry Roundtable.

The South East Region of Livestock SA - chairman Peter Stock, vice-chairman Lachlan Grundy and secretary Tom Dawkins - were out in force at the Naracoorte market on November 20 signing up members.

Meanwhile, congratulations goes to Alexander MacLachlan who has been

elected National Vice President of the Sheepmeat Council of Australia.

Finally, I will be moving into a new role as president of WoolProducers Australia. Part of the WPA's Constitution means relinquishing my responsibilities at a state level and the Livestock SA board will nominate a new president at its next meeting. While I will have more to say in the next newsletter in February, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in my role with Livestock SA and look forward to working with the next president at a state and national level.

Nomination call

Livestock SA is calling for nominations from members to represent South Australia on WoolProducers Australia - the peak national body for wool growers.

Send nominations to Livestock SA CEO Deane Crabb before Friday, December 19, including a brief resume and reason for nominating.



Time's running out for pastoral drought funding

APPLICATIONS for on-property works under the Far North Water Infrastructure Grant Scheme close on December 31.

The scheme – funded by the State and Federal governments and the Arid Lands NRM Board – enables drought-affected pastoralists in the Far North to apply for up to a \$25,000 grant to cover up to 50 percent of costs for eligible water infrastructure projects.

All aspects of the project must be completed by May 31, 2015. Livestock SA is administering the project in collaboration with PIRSA and the NRM Board for Pastoral Businesses in the SA Arid Lands NRM Region.

> More information: Guidelines for the scheme and an application form are available at www.livestocksa.org.au

Working dogs part of new draft animal welfare code

WORKING dogs will be part of a new code of practice for animal welfare in South Australia. Livestock SA is encouraging dog breeders or anyone who values working dogs in their business to provide feedback on the draft code.

While the code for breeding dogs and cats targets 'puppy factories', working dogs have not been exempted from the code. The present draft covers responsibilities and competency of staff, quality management, animal housing, management and health, transfer of ownership and breeding and rearing.

Livestock SA was invited to a meeting in late November on the code and was represented by South East working dog breeder Kay Hocking, Washpool, Avenue Range.

"We are concerned that if it becomes too difficult for people who breed working dogs on farms, there will be less breeders and the potential for genetics of the recognised working dog breeds to be lost," she said.

> More information:

A draft copy of the code is available from Livestock SA. Contact CEO Deane Crabb, dcrabb@livestocksa.org.au



Q&A ... Livestock Biosecurity Network

with
EMMA ROOKE



Emma started her role as Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) regional officer for South Australia in October. She explains the organisation's aims and how producers can be involved.

> How did the LBN begin?

The LBN was established by Sheepmeat Council of Australia, Cattle Council of Australia and Wool Producers Australia in response to industry concerns about the impacts of pests and diseases on the farming economy. The councils pooled \$5 million of producer levies to fund the initiative as a pilot for three years.

> What's the aim in South Australia?

LBN aims to raise awareness among producers of the importance of biosecurity in protecting their businesses against animal diseases, pests and weeds.

The better a producer's 'farm health', the more opportunities they have to make money from their livestock.

Most on-farm biosecurity practices are free or very cheap to implement but have ongoing returns. Good biosecurity reduces the chance of introducing economically important diseases, such as Johne's Disease, footrot, lice, multi-resistant worms, and pestivirus, and helps manage diseases that are already present on-farm.

Knowing your farm health status can also help you pick up anything unusual. Early detection is critical to controlling disease and significantly reduces the cost and length of an outbreak. This enables you to get back to normal business more quickly.

> How long have you been on board?

I started in early October. Previously, I worked as a private veterinary practitioner in Australia and England and with government in biosecurity and animal health policy development. Most recently, I was a vet with the Solomon Islands Government. I've been part of three significant emergency animal disease outbreak responses – foot and mouth disease (FMD) in UK in 2001, equine influenza in Australia in 2007 and bovine babesiosis in New Caledonia in 2008 – and I've seen how devastating these are to farming communities.

> What are some of the key issues the LBN is tackling?

We want to give producers the tools to reduce the impact of endemic diseases to their businesses and, at the same time, increase industry preparedness for an emergency animal disease incursion, such as FMD. This will be achieved through partnerships with private and public organisations to provide opportunities to work with producers.

> What are key things producers can do?

Using an animal health statement when purchasing new livestock is a must and LBN recommends a Farm Biosecurity Plan be developed to plan for risks posed by pests and diseases. LBN are also reminding producers that if they see anything unusual on their farm to contact their local vet or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

> More information

Emma Rooke, 0488 400 878, 08 8297 5978, and erooke@lbn.org.au or visit the Farm Biosecurity website www.farmbiosecurity.com.au